DECLASSIFIED POL 14 VIET-S

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Action
Info

RR RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 5315 2791615
ZNY CCCCC
R 061555Z SEP 66
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5315

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1966 SEP 6 AM 12 23

Saigon 5-3/5

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Dzenkowski DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REAS (C)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SEPT 6

THE FOLLOWING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

DE RUMNMF 762 2481116
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P R 051116Z SEP 66
FM CG III MAF
TO RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON
INFO RUMNVH/AMCONSUL HUE
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L
POLAD FRANCIS SENDS SAIGON NO 93 HUE NO. 45
1. DANANG ELECTION STATISTICS:
A. OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF POPULATION: 228,035
B. REGISTERED VOTERS: 98,955
C. VOTING BOOTHS: 109 PLUS MAIN POLLING STATION.
D. NUMBER OF POLL LOCATIONS: 68
E. AUTHORITIES ESTIMATE OF PARTICIPATION: OVER 80 PER CENT
2. ESTIMATED RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION OF ELECTORATE:
A. ANCESTOR WORSHIP: 25-30 PER CENT
B. BUDDHIST: 25-35 PER CENT (80-90 PER CENT CLAIMED)
C. CATHOLIC: 15-25 PER CENT (25-30 PER CENT CLAIMED)
D. CAO DAI: LESS THAN 05 PER CENT (10,000 ADULTS CLAIMED)
E. PROTESTANT: LESS THAN 05 PER CENT (5,000 ADULTS CLAIMED)
3. APPROX MILITARY POPULATION:
A. ARVN: 11,000
B. VNAF: 1700
C. VNN: 300
D. RF/PF: 700
E. REGISTERED MILITARY VOTERS: 13,995
4. POLITICAL PARTIES ESTIMATED STRENGTH:
A. VNQDD: WEAK AND FACTIONALIZED. (10,000 SUPPORTERS CLAIMED).
B. DAI VIET: VERY WEAK.
POLAD FRANCIS
GP-3" LODGE
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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

(464)

Saigon 5444

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUHLHQ/CINCPAC
ZEN/AMCONSUL DANANG
ZEN/AMCONSUL HUE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5444

SEPT 07

SUBJ: CA ELECTIONS: BAC LIEU PROVINCE

1. AS PREVINCE OFFICIALS TRY TO STIR UP INTEREST AMONG BAC LIEU'S 72,000 REGISTERED VOTERS, MAJORITY OF EIGHT REMAINING CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET GVN TO DISQUALIFY LEADING CANDIDATE LT. COL. NGUYEN VAN BE, FORMER KONTUM PROVINCE CHIEF. FOR PAST FOUR MONTHS BE HAS BEEN IV CORPS CHIEF OF STAFF FOR RURAL CONSTRUCTION IN CAN THO BUT PROVIOUSLY WAS DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PACIFICATION OF 21ST DIVISION IN BAC LIEU. OTHER CANDIDATES, LED BY PHAN THANH NGUYEN, PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEER ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOVEMENT FOR FLOURISHING

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SOUTH, HAVE SENT LETTERS TO PROVINCIAL AND CENTRAL ELECTORAL COUNCILS, BOTH OF WHICH REFUSED TO TAKE ACTION, COMPLAINING ABOUT BE'S POSITION AND HIS USE OF THE 21ST DIVISION "LIGHTNING BOLT" PATCH AS CAMPAIGN SYMBOL, WITH PHOTO OF HIM IN UNIFORM. BE REPORTEDLY WALKED OUT OF MEETING IN WHICH OTHER CANDIDATES ASKED HIM TO CHANGE ELECTION SYMBOL. MUCH ANIMOSITY AGAINST BE WAS VENTED TO EMBOFF BY OTHER CANDIDATES. HOWEVER, IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT BE HAS BERY GOOD CHANCE OF WINNING. ALMOST 10PERCENT OF THE VOTERS ARE MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES. NUMEROUS LOCAL MILITARY AND VICILIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING AN INFLUENTIAL CAMBODIAN OFFICER, FAVOR HIM. ONE FELLOW CANDIDATE WITHDREW IN ORDER TO MANAGE BE'S CAMPAIGN.

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2. NEXT TO BE CANDIDATE WITH BEST CHANCE APPEARS TO BE PROVINCIAL COUNCILLOR TIEU VAN PHEN, WHO CLAIMS SOME SUPPORT IN CIVIL SERVICE RAMKS. OTHER CANDIDATES ARE PHAN TAN DAT, CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, AND PHAN THANH NGUYEN. SOME SUPPORT WILL GO TO NGUYEN THANH LONG, A VNQDD MEMBER WHOSE CANDIDACY WAS REINSTATED

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BY THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL DESPITE ALLEGATIONS OF PAST VC ACTIVITIES. FORMER PROVINCE CHIEF, LT. COL. VO QUOC SU IS STILL ON ELECTION LIST BUT HAS BEEN DENIED MILITARY LEAVE TO CAMPAIGN. TWO CANDIDATES WERE DISQUALIFIED BECAUSE OF INCOMPLETE DOSSIERS.

3. ONLY ONE OR TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE ARE TURNING OUT TO HEAR CANDIDATES SPEAK. CROWDS REPORTEDLY INCLUDE A LARGE NUMBER OF MILITARY MEN WHO GIVE EASY QUESTIONS TO BE AND INSULT OTHER CANDIDATES. MOST CIVILIANS APPARENTLY AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS.

4. PROVINCE CHIEF IS KNOWN TO HAVE ORDERED 87,000 BALLOTS FOR EACH CANDIDATE; PROVINCE HAS 72,000 REGISTERED VOTERS. EXCESS BALLOTS MAY REPRESENT NO MORE THAN REASONABLE PRECAUTION IN CASE OF VC DISRUPTION OR LOST SHIPMENTS TO POLLING PLACES. (AFTER ALL, IF BLANK BALLOTS WERE LOST OR STOLEN ON ELECTION EVE OR ELECTION DAY, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE THEM IN TIME.) AN ORDER FOR TWENTY PERCENT MORE BLANK BALLOTS THAN ACTUALLY REQUIRED COULD ALWAYS BE CITED AS EVIDENCE OF INTENTION BY OFFICIALS TO STUFF THE BOXES. HOWEVER. LODGE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5419

SEPTEMBER 8

HEREWITH DANANG 100 DATED SEPT 6, QUOTE:

1. QUANG TIN ELECTION STATISTICS:
A. OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF POPULATION: 364,532
B. REGISTERED VOTER: 90,507
C. VOTING BOOTHS: 99 PLUS MAIN POLLING STATIONS.
D. NUMBER OF POLL LOCATIONS: 55
E. AUTHORITIES ESTIMATE OF PARTICIPATION: 80 PER CENT.

2. ESTIMATED RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION OF ELECTORATE:
A. ANCESTOR WORSHIP: 45-55 PER CENT
B. BUDDHIST: 25-35 PER CENT
C. CATHOLIC: 05-15 PER CENT
D. CAO DAI: LESS THAT 05 PER CENT
E. PROTESTANT: LESS THAN 05 PER CENT

3. APPROX MILITARY POPULATION:

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 5419 C O N F I D E N T I A L
A. ARVN: 6100
B. VNAF: NONE
C. VNN: 125
D. RF/PF: 6500

4. POLITICAL PARTIES ESTIMATED STRENGTH:
A. VNQDD: VERY STRONG/NOT FACTIONALIZED (20,000 SUPPORTERS CLAIMED)
B. DAI VIET: ALMOST NON-EXISTANT.
POLAD FRANCIS UNQUOTE LODGE
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